

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Prevention of Tooth Decay

Chemical control of public water supplies to reduce future high incidence of dental caries (tooth decay) is no far-fetched possibility, according to new researches of the United States Public Health Service.

Detailed studies were made recently of the mouths and teeth of 885 twelve- to fourteen-year-old white school children in the four Illinois cities of Galesburg and Monmouth, Macomb and Quincy.

At the former two cities, where the common water supply contains 1.8 and 1.7 parts per million of fluorides, respectively, an unusually low amount of dental caries was observed. In the nearby latter two cities, where the water contains 0.2 parts per million fluorides, the amounts of decay were just double and treble those recorded at Galesburg and Monmouth. An interesting sidelight in this connection is the fact that 36 per cent of those children examined in the latter towns had permanent teeth wholly free from decay, an unusually high percentage for children of this age group.

"A further most unusual observation," say Dr. H. Trendley Dean, dental surgeon of the service, and others, who completed the study of Domestic Water and Dental Caries, "was the difference in the amount of smooth surface decay. Using the proximal (touching) surfaces of the four front teeth as a basis of measurement, there was sixteen times as much interproximal caries in Macomb and Quincy as in Galesburg and Monmouth.

"Considering the apparent similarity in the population groups and the methods followed in the selection of the samples examined, it is difficult from an epidemiological standpoint to ascribe these differences to any other cause than the common water supply. If this assumption proves correct, the possibility of partially controlling dental caries through the public water supply becomes of more than academic interest."

Second only to colds as the commonest of mankind's ills, dental caries are found in at least 19 out of 20 persons. The present study, one of a continuing series in dental fluorosis conducted by scientists of the Public Health Service, serves further to corroborate a long-held assumption that the presence of small amounts of fluorine in domestic water supplies definitely increases freedom from dental caries.

Galesburg and Monmouth, using a domestic water supply closely similar in source (2400-foot deep wells) and mineral composition, show similarly low dental caries rates—201 and 205 decayed permanent teeth per 100 children, respectively. Macomb and Quincy, using a domestic water dissimilar in type (from nearby rivers) and mineral composition from that of the nearby cities, are characterized by dental caries rates of 401 and 633, respectively.

The organism *L. acidophilus* has, in a high percentage of cases, been found by a number of dental investigations to be associated with active dental decay. A

test of the number of these organisms found in the saliva of those children examined at Galesburg and Quincy, likewise closely reflected the differences in the caries rates between the two cities.

"Thus, while it seems reasonable," the authors conclude, "to associate the low dental caries rates with the higher fluoride content of the communal water supplies, the possibility that the composition of the domestic waters other than the fluorine content may be a factor which should not be overlooked."

MORE THAN 6,000 ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN 1938

There were 6042 accidental deaths registered in California last year, of which number 2770 were due to motor vehicles, 1532 to accidents in the home, 1248 to accidents in public places and 423 to occupational accidents. More than half of all accidental deaths were in persons between the ages of 25 and 64 years and one-quarter of such deaths were in persons 65 years of age and over.

The chief causes of accidental deaths in children 4 years of age and under were accidents in the home, (burns, suffocation, poisoning), motor vehicles, and drowning. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 were mostly victims of motor vehicle accidents, burns and drowning. Individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 were killed, chiefly, by motor vehicles and drowning. Chief causes of accidental deaths among those between the ages of 25 and 64 were accidents in agriculture and transportation, burns, falls in the home, motor vehicles, railroad accidents and drowning. Chief causes of such deaths in persons 65 years of age and over were falls in the home and motor vehicles.

For each day of 1938 there was an average of almost eight deaths due to motor vehicles, more than two deaths due to falls in the home and one death each day due to drowning.

Following is a summary of accidental deaths in California, by principal causes, in 1938:

ACCIDENTAL DEATH SUMMARY FOR CALIFORNIA—YEAR 1938

| Type of Accident | All Ages |
|---|----------|
| Grand total | 6,042 |
| Occupational total | 423 |
| Agriculture | 79 |
| Mining and quarrying | 39 |
| Other extractive industries | 25 |
| Manufacturing | 17 |
| Construction | 41 |
| Transportation and public utilities | 61 |
| Trade | 110 |
| Clerical and professional service | 7 |
| Other occupational accidents | 44 |
| Home total | 1,532 |
| Poisonings (gas excepted) | 99 |
| Absorption of poisonous gas | 65 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Conflagration, burns and explosions | 262 |
| Mechanical suffocation | 39 |
| Firearms | 33 |
| Falls | 872 |
| Other home accidents | 162 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Motor vehicle total | 2,770 |
| Collision with pedestrian | 1,037 |
| Collision with other motor vehicle | 825 |
| Collision with railroad train | 115 |
| Collision with electric car | 62 |
| Collision with bicycle | 52 |
| Collision with horse-drawn vehicle | 3 |
| Collision with fixed object | 157 |
| Noncollision | 519 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Public (not motor vehicle) total | 1,248 |
| Railroad—not with motor vehicle | 159 |
| Street car—not with motor vehicle | 55 |
| Other vehicle—not with motor vehicle | 7 |
| Water transportation | 67 |
| Air transportation | 87 |
| Conflagration, burns and explosions | 22 |
| Drowning | 373 |
| Firearms | 45 |
| Falls—in buildings | 63 |
| Falls—not in buildings or unspecified | 224 |
| Other public accidents | 146 |
| Type of accident unknown | 69 |

DISEASES REPORTABLE IN CALIFORNIA

REPORTABLE ONLY

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Anthrax | Malaria* |
| Beriberi | Pellagra |
| Botulism | Pneumonia (Lobar) |
| Chancroid | Relapsing Fever |
| Coccidioidal Granuloma | Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever |
| Dengue* | Septic Sore Throat |
| Fluke Infection | Tetanus |
| Food Poisoning | Trichinosis |
| Glanders† | Tularemia |
| Hookworm | Undulant Fever |
| Jaundice (Infectious) | |
| Lymphogranuloma | |
| Inguinale | |

ISOLATION OF PATIENT

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chickenpox | Ophthalmia Neonatorum |
| Dysentery (Amoebic) | Psittacosis |
| Dysentery (Bacillary) | Rabies (Animal) |
| Erysipelas | Rabies (Human) |
| German Measles | Syphilis |
| Gonococcus Infection | Trachoma |
| Influenza | Tuberculosis |
| Measles | Whooping Cough |
| Mumps | |

QUARANTINABLE

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cholera† | Scarlet Fever |
| Diphtheria | Smallpox |
| Encephalitis (Infectious) | Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever |
| Leprosy | Typhus Fever |
| Meningitis (Epidemic) | Yellow Fever† |
| Plague† | |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis | |

* Patients should be kept in mosquito-free room.

† Cases to be reported to State Department of Public Health by telephone or telegraph and special instructions will be issued.

NEW HEALTH LAWS

Many bills pertaining to public health are still pending in the legislature. Among bills pertaining to this subject that have been enacted to date, are the following:

S. B. 173, Chapter 382, introduced by Senators Fletcher, Biggar and Kenny, providing for premariatal examinations for syphilis, approved by the Governor June 5, 1939.

S. B. 291, Chapter 259, introduced by Senator Slater, amending Health and Safety Code re municipal and county laboratories, approved by Governor May 26, 1939.

S. B. 329, Chapter 385, introduced by Senator Fletcher, an act to provide for information relative to prenatal tests for syphilis upon the birth certificate, approved by the Governor June 5, 1939.

S. B. 657, Chapter 60, introduced by Senators Mixer and Foley, an act to establish a Health and Safety Code which contains codification of most of the laws pertaining to public health, approved by the Governor April 7, 1939.

S. B. 727, Chapter 304, introduced by Senator Fletcher, an act re sanitary districts, approved by the Governor May 29, 1939.

S. B. 828, Chapter 303, introduced by Senator Fletcher, an act re sewer districts, approved by the Governor May 29, 1939.

S. B. 1044, Chapter 375, introduced by Senator Nielsen, an act making epilepsy reportable, approved by the Governor June 3, 1939.

A. B. 444, Chapter 150, introduced by Assemblyman Evans, pertaining to city and county health officers, approved by the Governor May 16, 1939.

A. B. 493, Chapter 127, introduced by Assemblymen H. M. Burns, Heisinger, Garland, Kepple, Kilpatrick, Corwin, Dilworth, Redwine, Knight, Mrs. Daley and Miss Eleanor Miller, requiring prenatal examinations for syphilis, approved by the Governor May 9, 1939.

A. B. 530, Chapter 270, introduced by Assemblyman Atkinson, relating to county sanitary districts, approved by the Governor May 26, 1939.

A. B. 537, Chapter 101, introduced by Assemblyman H. M. Burns, pertaining to the disposition and transportation of dead bodies, approved by Governor April 26, 1939.

A. B. 550, Chapter 114, introduced by Assemblyman H. M. Burns, repealing an act pertaining to laundry from contagious disease hospitals, approved by the Governor May 5, 1939.

A. B. 554, Chapter 126, introduced by Assemblyman H. M. Burns, pertaining to the disposition of dead bodies, approved by the Governor May 9, 1939.

A. B. 879, Chapter 24, introduced by Assemblyman Rosenthal, provides for the creation of sewer districts in municipalities, approved by the Governor February 2, 1939.

A. B. 918, Chapter 239, introduced by Assemblyman Sawallisch, pertaining to officers of sanitary districts, approved by the Governor May 25, 1939.

A. B. 1358, Chapter 117, introduced by Assemblyman Johnson, pertaining to health supervision of schools, approved by Governor May 9, 1939.

A. B. 1579, Chapter 122, introduced by Assemblyman Donnelly, pertaining to raw milk, approved by Governor May 9, 1939.

A. B. 1910, Chapter 355, introduced by Assemblyman Weber, pertaining to disposal of garbage and refuse, approved by Governor June 2, 1939.

A. B. 2367, Chapter 413, introduced by Assemblyman H. M. Burns, pertaining to powers of county health officers, approved by Governor June 5, 1939.

A. B. 2400, Chapter 223, introduced by Assemblyman H. M. Burns, which includes health officers among county officers, approved by Governor May 22, 1939.

NEW DENTAL PAMPHLET FOR PROSPECTIVE MOTHERS

A new pamphlet entitled "Expectant Mothers—Your Teeth—Your Baby's Teeth," has been printed by the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the California State Department of Public Health and is ready for distribution. This publication emphasizes the importance of diet in the production of sound, strong teeth and indicates the need of dental care during the months preceding confinement.

MAILING LIST UNDER REVISION

The mailing list of the Weekly Bulletin of the California State Department of Public Health is being revised. Readers who have not yet returned cards to request that their names be retained on the mailing list should send such request without delay.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 27, 1939

Chickenpox

575 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 5, Berkeley 2, Livermore 1, Oakland 29, San Leandro 5, Butte County 1, Calaveras County 1, Contra Costa County 3, Antioch 3, Pittsburg 5, El Dorado County 7, Fresno County 2, Fresno 7, Orland 9, Arcata 5, Brawley 3, Inyo County 1, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 49, Alhambra 10, Burbank 1, Compton 1, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 59, Pasadena 5, Pomona 1, Redondo 3, San Fernando 1, San Marino 6, Santa Monica 4, Sierra Madre 12, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 5, Lynwood 1, Monterey Park 5, Madera County 2, San Anselmo 1, Mendocino County 1, Merced County 3, Monterey County 1, Pacific Grove 1, Soledad 5, Napa 1, Orange County 4, Anaheim 8, Orange 2, Santa Ana 3, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 28, San Bernardino County 2, Ontario 3, San Diego County 28, Chula Vista 4, El Cajon 1, Escondido 8, National City 9, San Diego 32, San Francisco 74, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 3, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 2, San Bruno 2, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Clara County 2, Gilroy 1, San Jose 21, Solano County 1, Vacaville 1, Sonoma County 7, Petaluma 2, Stanislaus County 3, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 3, Dinuba 16, Visalia 7, Ventura 1, Woodland 1.

Diphtheria

26 cases: San Leandro 1, Butte County 1, Fresno County 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 11, Orange County 1, San Ber-

nardino 1, San Diego 3, San Jose 4, Sonoma County 1, Tehama County 1.

German Measles

34 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 2, Fresno County 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 3, Claremont 2, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 5, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Monterey 1, Orange County 2, Santa Ana 1, National City 1, San Diego 2, San Joaquin County 1, San Jose 1, Solano County 2, Sonora 1.

Influenza

58 cases: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 9, Whittier 1, Merced County 2, San Diego County 1, La Mesa 5, San Luis Obispo County 3, Shasta County 27, Tulare County 2, Visalia 4.

Malaria

3 cases: Santa Maria 1, Oakdale 1, Davis 1.

Measles

2710 cases: Alameda County 30, Alameda 7, Berkeley 18, Hayward 2, Piedmont 4, Oakland 100, San Leandro 2, Contra Costa 9, El Cerrito 2, Hercules 1, Martinez 2, Walnut Creek 31, El Dorado County 6, Fresno County 29, Fresno 15, Arcata 6, Inyo County 12, Kings County 13, Lake County 4, Los Angeles County 289, Alhambra 30, Arcadia 3, Azusa 1, Burbank 9, Claremont 11, Compton 19, Culver City 7, El Monte 4, El Segundo 2, Glendale 45, Huntington Park 7, Inglewood 6, Long Beach 72, Los Angeles 407, Manhattan 9, Monrovia 4, Montebello 2, Pasadena 31, Pomona 9, Redondo 5, San Fernando 4, San Gabriel 4, Santa Monica 15, South Pasadena 4, Whittier 4, Torrance 1, Lynwood 7, Hawthorne 2, West Covina 1, South Gate 17, Monterey Park 28, Signal Hill 2, Maywood 7, Bell 7, Gardena 4, Mill Valley 6, San Anselmo 49, San Rafael 2, Mendocino County 35, Willits 103, Merced County 8, Gustine 9, Mono County 1, Monterey County 25, King City 8, Monterey 19, Pacific Grove 2, Salinas 6, Orange County 73, Anaheim 16, Fullerton 7, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 2, Santa Ana 10, Seal Beach 10, La Habra 1, Laguna Beach 19, Placer County 6, Riverside County 1, Beaumont 24, Corona 33, Perris 1, Riverside 10, San Jacinto 6, Indio 4, Sacramento County 10, Sacramento 67, San Bernardino County 41, Ontario 18, Redlands 8, San Diego County 44, Chula Vista 11, Coronado 1, Escondido 1, La Mesa 11, National City 1, Oceanside 3, San Diego 67, San Francisco 22, San Joaquin County 26, Lodi 5, Stockton 22, Tracy 6, San Luis Obispo County 9, Paso Robles 3, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 3, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 8, Menlo Park 12, Santa Barbara County 10, Santa Barbara 32, Santa Clara County 44, Gilroy 7, Mountain View 3, Palo Alto 16, San Jose 2, Shasta County 2, Solano County 16, Dixon 3, Vacaville 8, Sonoma County 13, Santa Rosa 4, Healdsburg 6, Petaluma 2, Stanislaus County 53, Oakdale 61, Sutter County 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 40, Dinuba 47, Lindsay 8, Porterville 5, Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 25, Yolo County 1, Davis 4, Woodland 21, Kern County 2.

Mumps

740 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 1, Berkeley 22, Hayward 9, Livermore 4, Oakland 51, Piedmont 2, San Leandro 3, Contra Costa County 10, Antioch 6, El Cerrito 7, Martinez 1, Pittsburg 1, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 4, Fresno 4, Orland 1, Kern County 31, Bakersfield 7, Delano 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles County 29, Alhambra 2, Arcadia 1, Glendale 3, Glendora 4, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 46, Pasadena 13, San Marino 1, South Pasadena 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 1, Maywood 1, Marin County 1, Mill Valley 2, San Anselmo 7, San Rafael 14, Mendocino County 4, Willits 3, Merced County 3, Gustine 2, Monterey County 3, Monterey 1, Salinas 1, Napa 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 3, Placer County 4, Banning 1, Beaumont 2, Blythe 1, Perris 1, Riverside 8, Sacramento County 35, Sacramento 47, Hollister 1, San Bernardino County 3, Ontario 5, Redlands 1, San Diego County 4, San Diego 9, San Francisco 83, San Joaquin County 20, Stockton 35, San Luis Obispo County 8, San Luis Obispo 6, San Mateo County 5, Burlingame 1, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara County 11, San Jose 5, Shasta County 8, Solano County 8, Benicia 7, Dixon 9, Vacaville 14, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 9, Modesto 4, Tehama County 1, Tulare County 3, Visalia 21, Sonora 3, Yolo County 4, Woodland 23, California 1.*

Pneumonia (Lobar)

38 cases: Oakland 2, Delano 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Los Angeles 12, Montebello 1, Pomona 1, Pasadena 3, Mendocino County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 4, Siskiyou County 1, Yolo County 1, Winters 1.

Scarlet Fever

159 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, San Leandro 1, Butte County 2, Calaveras County 1, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 3, Antioch 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 7, Glenn County 1, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 4, Los Angeles County 20, Azusa 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 2, Hermosa 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 37, Pomona 3, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 2, Whittier 1, South Gate 1, Bell 1, San Anselmo 1, Monterey County 1, Orange County 3, Orange 1.

Santa Ana 3, Riverside 3, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 2, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 10, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 1, Stockton 1, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara County 5, San Jose 3, Vacaville 2, Tulare County 1, Dinuba 1, Madera 1.

Smallpox

23 cases: Butte County 3, Delano 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 5, South Gate 1, Merced County 1, Riverside County 1, Hemet 1, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino 1, Tulare County 2.

Typhoid Fever

14 cases: Alameda County 1, Butte County 1, El Monte 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 2, Nevada County 1, Riverside County 2, San Francisco 4, Tulare County 1.

Whooping Cough

207 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Oakland 4, Butte County 1, Kern County 9, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 17, Alhambra 9, Burbank 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 6, Long Beach 21, Los Angeles 29, Montebello 1, Pasadena 2, Pomona 2, Redondo 2, San Fernando 1, Sierra Madre 2, South Gate 1, Signal Hill 2, San Anselmo 1, Orange County 5, Fullerton 2, Orange 1, Santa Ana 8, La Habra 5, Laguna Beach 2, Plumas County 2, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 5, San Diego County 17, Coronado 3, Oceanside 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 10, San Joaquin County 4, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 1, Petaluma 1, Modesto 2, Tulare County 1, Lindsay 1, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 9, Winters 1.

Anthrax

1 case: Kings County.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

1 case: Napa County.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

3 cases: Claremont 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

13 cases: Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 1, San Francisco 4.

Pellagra

1 case: Brawley.

Poliomyelitis

5 cases: Brawley 1, Kern County 1, Riverside 1, San Bernardino 1, Santa Barbara 1.

Tetanus

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1.

Trachoma

2 cases: Orange County.

Beriberi

1 case: Alameda.

Paratyphoid Fever

1 case: Los Angeles County.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

2 cases: Kern County.

Food Poisoning

4 cases: Fresno County.

Undulant Fever

6 cases: Colusa County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, South Gate 1, San Mateo County 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

1 case: Kern County.

Septic Sore Throat

1 case: Kern County.

Rabies (Animal)

22 cases: Calaveras County 5, Fresno 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Madera County 1, Orange County 3, Placer County 1, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 1, La Mesa 1, San Diego 1, Porterville 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

MEDICAL SCHOOL
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F RANKLIN